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MONDAY
DECEMBER 6, 1954

Preston Grover came to say goodbye. He is off for several weeks in North Africa.

Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber had lunch with me. He is making plans for Mendès-France to hold weekly newspaper conferences. He considers Mendès' present position in domestic politics somewhat vulnerable but he will get through the Paris accords. Thereafter, he may lose office, but counts on having built up a popular following that will eventually reinstate him. Personally, I have long thought that Mendès will not survive many weeks even a favorable vote on the London-Paris accords. He is unlikely to be toppled over before the matter is decided by the National Assembly, for his political opponents can see pay dirt in making him responsible for the re-creation of a German National Army and General Staff.

E. and I went to John Ferguson's for a cocktail party he was having for a group, under the leadership of Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, interested in European affairs. Prince Bernhard and George Ball asked me to become the chairman of the American delegation in connection with further meetings. I said I would consider it and discuss the matter with John Ferguson. I do not wish to do this as it would involve a great deal of detail work.

I dined at the Travellers Club, where Kippy Tuck was host to the British Directors of the Suez Canal Company. John Hughes and other Americans were there. I sat between Kippy and Lord Hankey, who is still spry at the age of 77 after a long and distinguished record in the British Civil Service. We had the best partridge I have ever tasted, and a festive evening.

I had a talk with Sir John Vereker, a cousin of Evangeline's on the Surtees side. He said he had taught Virginia and Evangeline to ride in Peking at a time when they were more enthusiastic about horses than they now appear to be.

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